

Rank Names Odeon Directors

Peebles Sell Out To Western Group

The theatres operated in Manitoba by Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Peebles, in the motion picture theatre business since shortly after the last war, have been sold to a Western syndicate in which Harry Philet, former Regal branch manager in Calgary, and

(Continued on Page 9)

Coval Honored In Montreal

Some 65 members of Montreal's motion picture industry gathered at the Mount Royal Hotel one night last week to bid a friendly farewell to Irvin (Babe) Coval, one of their most popular fellows. Coval, Montreal branch manager for Warners until he took over

(Continued on Page 9)

Prexies of CPR, Imperial Oil Elected to New Board

D. C. Coleman of Montreal, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, was one of the four directors elected last week to represent the interest of J. Arthur Rank, Odeon Theatres Limited of Great Britain, in Odeon

Knevels Joins UA's Promotion Dept.

Howard Knevels has become Canadian promotion chief of United Artists, with offices at head office, Toronto.

He is well-known to the trade, having been a theatre manager for many years. The last theatre he managed was the Village, Toronto, and he left there to return to Elk Heart, Indiana, because of the illness of his father, who has since passed on.

Knevels was for several years manager of the Imperial, Toronto.

Theatres of Canada Limited and the General Theatre Corporation Limited. Others were R. V. LeSueur, Toronto; John Davis, London, England; and Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., Ottawa.

Odeon Theatres Limited of Great Britain are holders of "B" shares in Odeon of Canada and General Theatre Corporation.

Directors appointed by the "A" shareholders of General Theatre Corporation Limited are George

(Continued on Page 2)

Another Odeon Spot?

Odeon is reported planning to erect a 35 mm. house in Kelowna, B.C. There's a 16 mm. situation there now.

IA, Exhibs Join Rehab Program

Between 25 and 30 returned veterans of this war are becoming projectionists in Ontario as a result of the assistance being given to the Dominion-Provincial War Emergency Training Program of the Rehabilitation Commission. The Theatre and Inspection

(Continued on Page 9)

Film Daily Polls Find USA 'Bests'

United States motion picture critics, in two separate polls conducted by Film Daily of New York, picked Bing Crosby's performance in "Going My Way" as the best male acting role of the last year and that of Jennifer Jones in "Song of Bernadette" as

(Continued on Page 9)

Ont. Labor Bodies Against New Tax

The Toronto & District Trades and Labor Council went on record unanimously at its meeting last week as being whole-heartedly opposed to the return of the amusement tax in Ontario. Meeting in Toronto last week, delegates passed a resolution directed at the Provincial Government protesting the possibility of the "nuisance tax," although Queen's Park has made no official announcement of it.

The public became aware of the possibility of the tax being imposed again through newspaper reports.

Five hundred delegates to the Trades & Labor Council represent almost 80,000 Toronto workers. A copy of the resolution is being forwarded to similar labor bodies in other towns and cities

(Continued on Page 9)

Dominion, Victoria Being Renovated

Famous Players is spending \$3,700 to renovate and alter the Dominion Theatre, Victoria, British Columbia. It seats 866.

Buys Vanity, Windsor

The building and property of the Vanity Theatre, Windsor, Ontario, a 20th Century Theatres operation, has been purchased by that firm for \$110,000.

A. I. Garson, St. John, Now Odeon Partner

A. I. Garson of Saint John, New Brunswick, and Odeon Theatres have formed a partnership for the development of a chain of motion picture theatres throughout the Maritimes. The deal includes Garson's present theatre holdings and a number of sites purchased for future building.

'Damaged Goods'

"Damaged Goods," with a prologue, will be reissued in the USA.

Davis Will Be Here On Way to Aussies

John Davis, managing director of Odeon of Britain and now a director of Odeon of Canada, will be back in Toronto soon. He'll stop off on his way to Australia, where he will negotiate a theatre deal for Rank.

Garson and President Paul Nathanson of Odeon, acting together, have acquired all the theatre assets of Fred Winter and his associate, F. H. Sumner of Moncton. Garson will have complete charge of Odeon's Maritime operations.

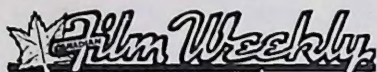
The theatres which come under the Odeon banner as part of the Garson-Nathanson arrangement are the Garrick and Oxford, Halifax, and the Kent, Moncton. The first two houses had been

(Continued on Page 9)

"...The Best Film

BEST" films of 1944. It's EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL. Photographed in

of the Year came from Britain in Noel Coward's very stirring and very moving: **THIS HAPPY BREED**," writes Roly Young of the Toronto Globe and Mail in making known his "TEN Technicolor, it's one of the most heart-warming films ever seen.



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Poll Results

Release of the USA critics Ten Best Pictures of 1944, as determined by the 23rd annual poll of Film Daily of New York, provides an opportunity to compare their tastes with those of our own film inspectors. Here are some selections:

USA CRITICS—

Going My Way, Song of Bernadette, Since You Went Away, Madame Curie, Dragon Seed, White Cliffs of Dover, Gaslight, A Guy Named Joe, Story of Dr. Wassell, and Lifeboat.

HERBERT WHITTAKER, Montreal Gazette—

San Demetrio-London, Lifeboat, The Purple Heart, Home in Indiana, Voice in the Wind, Going My Way, Hail the Conquering Hero, The Seventh Cross, Thunder Rock and Lost Angel.

JACK KARR, Toronto Daily Star—

Cover Girl, Miracle of Morgan's Creek, Gaslight, Two Girls and a Sailor, Thunder Rock, Double Indemnity, Going My Way, Since You Went Away, This Happy Breed and Laura.

ROLY YOUNG, Toronto Globe and Mail—

This Happy Breed, Madame Curie, The Lodger, Cover Girl, Miracle of Morgan's Creek, San Demetrio-London, Dragon Seed, The Climax, When Irish Eyes Are Smiling and Going My Way.

Canadian Critics

It is hard to compare Canadian choices with those of the USA, since the same films, in one or more cases, were not released in the same year. It is also doubtful as to whether many USA critics saw San Demetrio-London and This Happy Breed. British films do not get good distribution in the USA.

Karr and Whittaker did not select in order of merit but picked their ten favorites. Young named "This Happy Breed" as the best but did not indicate that the others were in order of importance.

"Going My Way" was picked by all three — the only one to be a unanimous choice.

"San Demetrio-London" was chosen by Young and Whittaker but didn't make Karr's list. Young and Karr, both Toronto critics, agreed on four films—This Happy Breed, Cover Girl, Miracle of Morgan's Creek and Going My Way. They named 16 films without agreement, after looking at the same films at the same time. And seven out of ten picked by Whittaker did not win a vote from either Young or Karr.

It almost proves the contention that there is no such thing as a bad moving picture. There are folks who say it's bad and folks who say it's good. If the critics are so far apart, how can you rely on the opinion of a professional guide?

The boxoffice is still the only sure way of judging the appeal of a motion picture.

Canadian Directors Named By Rank

(Continued from Page 1)

H. Beeston, Toronto; T. J. Bragg, Toronto; the Hon. Earl Lawson, K.C., Toronto; and Paul Nathanson, Toronto.

General Theatre Corporation Limited, as now constituted, will be completely under Canadian management, says an announcement from the head office of Odeon Theatres in Toronto.

Its officers are the representatives of the "A" shareholders on the board of directors and they are Paul L. Nathanson, president and managing director; T. J. Bragg, vice-president and secretary-treasurer; George H. Beeston, comptroller; and the Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., general counsel. Each will act in the same capacity for Odeon Theatres of Canada Limited.

George Peters has been named assistant secretary-treasurer of the company, although not a member of the board of directors.

New Personalities

Several of those now connected with General Theatre Corporation and Odeon of Canada enjoy positions of power and distinction in other endeavors and their participation in the development of the Canadian motion picture industry is proof of its great promise. Their alignment with Odeon means that that company is prepared for any quality of opposition which may be offered by competitors in the battle for domination of or major representation in the Dominion theatre field.

D. C. Coleman, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is also chairman of its board. He is chairman of the board of Associated Screen News Limited, CPR-controlled, which has long been prominent in production of Canadian shorts and in motion picture printing.

Mr. Coleman also holds directorates in the Bank of Montreal,

Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company Limited, Canadian Pacific Air Lines and a number of other companies.

R. V. LeSueur, also a representative of Rank on the board, is president and director of Imperial Oil Limited. He has many important business associations, being a director of Confederation Life, Montreal Trust, Kirkland Lake Gold Mining Company, Northern Canada Mining and many other companies.

Others No Surprise

Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., and John Davis, who also represent the shares of Odeon of Britain, were elected directors in November.

It was expected from the first that Davis would have a seat on the board but it was not until recently that Brockington's association with Rank became public knowledge.

Mr. Davis, who represented J. Arthur Rank in the negotiations with Paul Nathanson and his associates, is managing director of Odeon Theatres of Great Britain and a director of the board of Manorfield Investments Limited, the latter organization being the holding company for all of Rank's theatre enterprises.

Mr. Brockington, formerly head of the CBC, is reputed to be in close association with Premier William Lyon Mackenzie King. A distinguished speaker and writer, as well as a notable wit, his presence is constantly sought as an after-dinner orator. He has surveyed the war scene on almost every front and was present at the Normandy invasion.

The legal representative of Mr. Rank in Canada is the Ottawa firm of Messrs. Gowing, McTavish & Watt, barristers, to whom Mr. Brockington is counsel.

Lawson Counsel

The Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., one of the Canadian motion picture industry's most personally popular figures, has always been associated with the Nathanson interests and is acting as general counsel on the new board. He is head of the firm of Messrs. Lawson, Stratton, Green & Ongley.

Mr. Lawson, a member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, was formerly Minister of National Revenue in the cabinet of the present Lord Bennett. He has been active in business circles since his retirement from the House of Commons in 1940. He is a director of Viceroy Manufacturing Company Limited, Clark Ruse Aircraft Limited, Barker's Bakeries Limited, and Burry Picture Corporation of the United States.

Cohen Well Staffed

Wolfe Cohen's staff for the administration of the territory which he took over when he joined Warners International department is just about complete. Irvin (Babe) Coval of Montreal was recently added to Cohen's group and he is the only Canadian who will be moved, it seems.

British Get Jump In French Field

Americans are irked by the fact that British film men got the jump on them in France and other countries. J. Arthur Rank now has French Gaumont, a theatre chain. The British representatives, say the Americans, got plane priorities.

Acclaimed!
THE BEST

**OF THE TEN BEST PICTURES
OF NINETEEN FORTY-FOUR.** ROLY YOUNG
(GLOBE & MAIL)

In 1932

he gave to the 10 best
pictures of all time —
CAVALCADE

In 1944

he again enriches
the screen with
his matchless
technique and a
film is born to
bring happiness
to humanity.

NOEL COWARD'S
CAVALCADE OF A NEW GENERATION
**THIS HAPPY
BREED**
IN TECHNICOLOR

AVAILABLE *Now*
at your
Empire **UNIVERSAL** exchange

starring
ROBERT NEWTON • CELIA JOHNSON
JOHN MILLS • KAY WALSH
STANLEY HOLLOWAY
A TWO CITIES PRODUCTION

Booster

Harry Black, who manages the Capitol, Penticton, British Columbia, is always trying hard to be the best booster that community has. Penticton is about 250 miles inland from Vancouver.

In a note he recalls that this column has often related in glowing terms the fishing and hunting trips of some members of the industry. Such reports usually refer to Ontario and New Brunswick and, says Harry, it's time that someone in the West sent in word "that we have fish and game out here too."

He says they get Salmon trout up to 35 pounds and flyfish for silver trout from one to ten pounds at the edge of the town.

"As for hunting," Harry writes proudly, "here is one trip which would be hard for any of the rifle fiends to match. One day in the fall I left town at 1.30 p.m., drove 22 miles, then walked two miles up a mountain trail and by 3.30 p.m. had three spike deer. Could have had several large bucks but, it being late in the season, I didn't want them."

Fish and deer aren't the only beauties around Penticton. Alexis Smith, the Warners star, was born there.

On the Beam

The contest to name Barnes & Davidson's Deseronto house was won by a patron who suggested "Radar," thereby fattening his or her poke by \$100.

Incidentally there are a number of theatres in the West known simply as "M.P."

Ned Depinet Drive



J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, (centre), welcomes Bob Folliard, captain of RKO's 1945 Ned Depinet Drive, to Canada. Left is Leo Devaney, Canadian general manager.



True

Well-meaning man, in conversation with a Negro, referred to him as a "colored man."

"We're not colored," was the thought-provoking answer. "We were born this way."

Good Work

Return engagement of "The Great Mr. Handel" at the Royal Alex, Toronto, caused Roly Young to comment about his faith in the film in the face of Ernie Rawley's opinion.

This film had been unplayed and on the shelf for over a year when Ben Cronk moved into Emp-U, dusted it off, tried it for Montreal music lovers and found that, played right, it would be a moneymaker.

After that it went into the Royal and played to capacity several times.

Overheard

"He's one man who'll never die of enlargement of the heart."

Fellow-Irkers

(1) Insurance salesmen who sound and look just like insurance salesmen.

(2) Insurance salesmen who don't sound and look like insurance salesmen.

It's Never Over

Wolfe Cohen, back in town for a couple of days, was telling about the difficulties of travel these days. Not how tough it is to get room on a plane or train but about visa complications. To get into one Latin-American country he was forced to provide 12 passport photos. Then, not satisfied, government photos took four more.

Somehow this leads to Mayor Saunders, enemy of the City Hall voucher system, in which a piece of paper must reach about 25 persons for signature before that part of the transaction is over with. I am going to ask the mayor to go after the National Film Board.

The NFB recently ordered another subscription from us and was billed in due course. Then came a request for five copies of the invoice. This was met. The other day a request came in for five more copies.

Did somebody say something about a paper shortage?

Ruralroutish

Globe and Mail, Canada's leading morning newspaper (in Toronto), went kind of smalltownish the other day. Roly Young's column, all the theatre advertising and some other ad stuff were all piled up on the first sporting page.

It was the first time Jim Coleman and Roly competed for the attention of the reader. I think Jim won—but only because his scribbling was more theatrical in style.

The theatrical Roly wasn't showy enough.

Paunch Drunk?

East is east and vest is vest and never the pants shall meet.

Nice Gesture

Those presents Tom Connors sent out to 20th-Fox boys and girls in the services were gratefully received. Lieut. Winnie Chivers, WRCNS, a young lady who used to be with the Winnipeg branch, wrote to Joe Huber and asked him to pass on her thanks.

She's hoarding the cash gift to buy a pair of fur-lined glamor boots and the Elizabeth Arden kit was wonderful to her because she wanted one but couldn't afford it.

Nice folks, those.

Ycleptomania

Al Sedgwick, manager of the Belsize, Toronto, has a curious streak that leads him to pursue the unusual. Seeking a name in the new phone book, he was led away but not astray by one that caught his eye. It had to do with golf and Al followed that theme right through the book.

The searching Sedgwick discovered that there are four Clubbs, hundreds of Greens but just two Tees, six Holes and no Fairways in the new phone book.

There are five Baggs, which Al presumes carry the seven Drivers, two Brasseys, 11 Irons and about 150 Balls.

Parr, Al points out, is hit 25 times in spite of the fact that, although there are no Slices, there are 19 Hooks, and only six Putts. There aren't any Birdies but 12 Eagles are there.

"P.S." pee-esses Al. "There is only one Golfman."

Noisy Secret

The deal between Odeon and Superior Operating of Montreal, not yet officially admitted, has attracted considerable press space. Latest stories about it appeared in the Hamilton Spectator and the Montreal Financial Times. The Times quotes Superior management as saying "We have nothing official and therefore are not talking about it."

Thanks

Ed Auger, now of RCA in New York but once a pioneer in the Canadian theatre business, was in Toronto recently and heard about our series on the life and times of Ernest Ouimet. Ed wanted to read the stories and Oscar Hanson sent them on to him.

A note from Auger says that "It was refreshing to dwell into a busy and still growing industry and there renew acquaintance with the past, particularly that of my old friend Ernest."

Thought

It's easier to fence an elephant in than it is a cat.

Wrong Again

Grattan Kiely became "Grad Kielely" in our columns when the news of his succeeding Coval was reported in the last issue.

I tried mighty hard to get the right spelling but, what with Glenn Ireton busy making movies in Northern Ontario for Warners, there was no official source of info.

The guy who spelled Kiely's name for me should have known better, too.

Ladd's Back *in* Ladd's Best!



Five little words that sum up the whole boxoffice story of this meteoric Paramount star's return to pictures after eighteen months with Uncle Sam. . .

NOT JUST AS BIG, BUT **BIGGER**
THAN BEFORE HE WENT AWAY!



"AND NOW *Tomorrow*"



ALAN LADD
LORETTA YOUNG

in
Rachel Field's
"AND NOW
TOMORROW"

with
Susan Hayward • Barry Sullivan

Beulah Bondi • Cecil Kellaway
Directed by IRVING PICHEL • Screen Play
by Frank Partos and Raymond Chandler

TOPS "GOING MY WAY," "LADY IN THE DARK," AND "WASELL" in many of its scores of day-and-date nation-wide premieres.

TOPS "CHINA" (the industry-stunning grosser that climaxed his skyrocket rise to superstardom) in nearly every engagement.

TOPS TOP HITS like "I Love A Soldier" by as much as 66, 80 and 95 per cent!

AND NOW TOMORROW

watch for Ladd in the terrific "Two Years Before The Mast," "Salty O' Rourke" and "Duffy's Tavern"...

From Phenomenal
PARAMOUNT

Kismet

with Ronald Colman, Marlene Dietrich
MGM 100 Mins.

TECHNICOLOR SPECTACLE SHOULD MAKE ITSELF FELT AT B. O.; DIETRICH STUNNING.

Edward Knoblock's play "Kismet" makes its third trip to the screen in a Technicolor splendor that will make the eyes bulge. The production is so sumptuous, so heavy with glamor that it cannot miss. Everett Riskin produced with no restraint. The direction of William Dieterle is extremely free-handed.

Possessed of a picture-book quality, "Kismet" must be accepted strictly as a fairy tale. Any other approach will result in a bit of dullness and make one aware the casting isn't exactly what it should be, although the players perform to the hilt.

The action takes place in Bagdad. The beggar is played by Ronald Colman. The plot revolves around Colman's efforts to have his daughter (Joy Ann Page) married to the scoundrelly grand vizier (Edward Arnold) against her wishes. What he doesn't know is that his daughter and the Caliph (James Craig) are in love. The fact the Caliph has done his wooing incognito complicates matters. Colman almost causes the murder of the Caliph before he discovers the truth.

Marlene Dietrich, as Colman's love, is definitely something for the boys.

CAST: Ronald Colman, Marlene Dietrich, James Craig, Edward Arnold, Hugh Herbert, Joy Ann Page, Florence Bates, Harry Davenport, Hobart Cavanaugh.

CREDITS: Producer, Everett Riskin; Director, William Dieterle; Screenplay, John Meehan; Based on play by Edward Knoblock; Cameraman, Charles Rosher; Musical Score, Herbert Stothart; Songs, Harold Arlen, E. Y. Harburg; Recording Director, Douglas Shearer; Art Directors, Cedric Gibbons, Daniel B. Cathcart; Set Decorators, Edwin B. Willis, Richard Pefferle; Special Effects, Warren Newcombe; Film Editor, Ben Lewis.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Superb.

IOTA of NY Supports Gov't Control Bill

The Independent Theatre Owners Association is preparing bill for presentation at the coming session of the New York legislature which will give the state a considerable amount of control over the motion picture industry.

The idea, says President Harry Brandt, is to prevent the distributors from continuing certain practices to which the IOTA objects. Such legislation, he said, would not be necessary if harmony existed in the industry.

Something For the Boys

with Carmen Miranda, Michael O'Shea, Vivian Blaine

20th-Fox 87 Mins.
TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL IS HEFTY ORDER OF ENTERTAINMENT SURE OF BIG B. O.

The stage musical with book by Herbert and Dorothy Fields and songs by Cole Porter has been converted into a screen show rich in entertainment and noteworthy in production values. Turned out by Irving Starr in stimulating Technicolor, the film is among the topnotchers on the 20th-Fox roster of musicals.

"Something for the Boys," directed capably by Lewis Seiler, is lively fun delivered in high spirits by a good cast headed by Carmen Miranda, Michael O'Shea, Vivian Blaine and Phil Silvers. The story, serviceable for the purposes of musical comedy, has more than the usual number of laughs and romance to spare. It tells how three cousins (O'Shea and the Misses Miranda and Blaine) turn a bankrupt plantation inherited by them into a home for wives of service men. To get money to run the place they stage a show on the grounds.

The film retains some of the original Cole Porter tunes and adds a number of new ones by Jimmy McHugh and Harold Adamson. Assisting with the singing chores is Perry Como, who makes his film debut in the film.

CAST: Carmen Miranda, Michael O'Shea, Vivian Blaine, Phil Silvers, Sheila Ryan, Perry Como, Glenn Langan, Roger Clark, Cara Williams, Thurston Hall, Florence Kolb, Paul Hurst, Andrew Tombes.

CREDITS: Producer, Irving Starr; Director, Lewis Seiler; Screenplay, Robert Ellis, Helen Logan, Frank Gabrielson; Based on musical comedy by Herbert and Dorothy Fields; Cameraman, Ernest Palmer; Dance Director, Nick Castle; Art Directors, Lyle Wheeler, Albert Hogsett; Set Decorators, Thomas Little, Walter M. Scott; Film Editor, Robert Simpos; Special Effects, Fred Sersen; Sound, W. D. Flick, Roger Heman; Musical Directors, Emil Newman, Charles Henderson.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Swell.

Called 'Stool Pigeon' Wins Damage Suit

Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Cook, owners of the Bungalow Theatre, Ste. Maries, Indiana, called Ralph V. Browder, a Federal checker, "a stool pigeon, a Peeping Tom and a Jekyll and Hyde." He sued for \$25,000 and the jury awarded him \$10,000, with \$500 more from the local newspaper for a story it printed about him.

Can't Help Singing

with Deanna Durbin, Robert Paige, Akim Tamiroff, David Bruce

Universal 89 Mins.
CORKING PERIOD MUSICAL IN TECHNICOLOR IS HEADED FOR EXCELLENT GROSSES.

Deanna Durbin's initial Technicolor offering is eye-filling in many respects. The star photographs beautifully and her many period costumes are certain to attract much attention. Picturesque backgrounds have also been utilized.

Felix Jackson provided an excellent production, while Frank Ryon turned in a good job of direction. Frank Shaw functioned as associate producer. Jerome Kern and E. Y. Harburg fashioned seven songs, and in three of them Miss Durbin is joined by Robert Paige, who does justice to his best role to date.

The time of the story is 1849, and Deanna, daughter of Ray Collins, a Senator, believes she is in love with David Bruce, a cavalry officer, who is an opportunist. Against her father's orders, she follows Bruce across country from Washington.

Deanna joins a wagon train and meets Paige. He comes to her aid when George Cleveland, a marshal, is about to return her to her father and the picture ends with Deanna and Robert in each other's arms.

CAST: Deanna Durbin, Robert Paige, Akim Tamiroff, David Bruce, Leonid Kinskey, Ray Collins, June Vincent, Andrew Tombes, Thomas Gomez, Clara Blandick, Olin Howlin, George Cleveland.

CREDITS: Producer, Felix Jackson; Associate Producer, Frank Shaw; Director, Frank Ryon; Authors, John Klorer and Leo Townsend; Based on "Girl of the Overland Trail" by Samuel J. and Curtis Warshawsky; Screenplay, Lewis R. Foster and Frank Ryan; Cameraman, Woody Bredell, and W. Howard Greene; Technicolor Color Director, Natalie Kalamus; Associate, William Fritzsche; Art Directors, John B. Goodman, Robert Clatworthy; Editor, Ted J. Kent; Music by Jerome Kern; Lyrics, E. Y. Harburg; Musical Director for Miss Durbin, Edgar Fairchild; Musical Score and Direction, H. J. Salter; Orchestrations by Frank Skinner.

DIRECTION, Very Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, High-grade.

FPCC Old Timers Will Celebrate

The 25 Year Club of Famous Players Canadian Corporation celebrate its inauguration at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on Tuesday evening, January 23rd, 1945, at 6.30 o'clock.

That's the anniversary date of the company.

Frenchman's Creek

with Joan Fontaine, Arturo de Cordova
Paramount 113 Mins.

COSTUME DRAMA RICH IN ROMANCE AND SWORD PLAY IS ESCAPIST STUFF WITH B.O. PUNCH.

"Frenchman's Creek," derived from the Daphne du Maurier best-selling novel of the same name, is a romantic tale of the days of Charles II of England that is escapist entertainment of the first grade. Produced in the grand manner and impressive in its physical aspects, the picture should prove a solid click at the box office.

Under the watchful eyes of Executive Producer B. G. DeSylva and Associate Producer David Lewis, the film resolves itself into a Technicolor spectacle that employs hues with stunning effect. The story never loses its interest.

While the tale holds the women with its story of the love of an English noblewoman for a bold, dashing pirate from the shores of France, it bids for the attention of the men with its display of violent action in which sword play figures prominently.

The chief scene of action is the Cornish Coast. It is there that Joan Fontaine, as the lady of high estate seeking an escape from the stupid and dull life of London society, meets Arturo de Cordova, the pirate lover. Much of the action has to do with the efforts of the English gentry to capture the pirate and string him up. Miss Fontaine has her brief moment of happiness with de Cordova, her duty to her children (she's married to Ralph Forbes) compelling her to part from him at the end.

Miss Fontaine and de Cordova enact the lovers satisfactorily. Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Cecil Kellaway are others who stand out.

CAST: Joan Fontaine, Arturo de Cordova, Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Cecil Kellaway, Ralph Forbes, Harald Ramond, Billy Dasiels, Moyna MacGill, Patricia Barker, David James, Mary Field, David Clyde, Charles Coleman, Paul Oman, Arthur Gould Porter, Evan Thomas, Leslie Denison, Denis Green, George Kirby.

CREDITS: Executive Producer, B. C. DeSylva; Associate Producer, David Lewis; Director, Mitchell Leisen; Screenplay, Talbot Jennings; Based on novel by Daphne du Maurier; Cameraman, George Gurnes; Musical Score, Victor Young; Art Directors, Hans Dreier, Ernest Fegte; Film Editor, Alma Macrorie; Special Effects, Gordon Jennings; Process Photography, Farciot Edouard; Sound, Donald McKay, Don Johnson; Set Decorator, Sam Comer.

DIRECTION, Fine. PHOTOGRAPHY, Superb.

In
Preparation:

CANADIAN
TEN BEST
POLLS

Canadian
Film
Weekly

Film Daily Polls Find USA 'Bests'

(Continued from Page 1)

the best performance by a feminine star; while "Going My Way" was hailed as the No. 1 picture of 1944.

"Song of Bernadette," originally a roadshow attraction in the USA, will not be released in this country until February of this year.

The polls, conducted annually by the Film Daily, showed these results (winners listed in the order in which they placed):

According to the critics, the "Ten Best Pictures" of 1944 were: *Going My Way* (Paramount), *Song of Bernadette* (20th-Fox), *Since You Went Away* (United Artists), *Madame Curie* (MGM), *Dragon Seed* (MGM), *White Cliffs of Dover* (MGM), *Gaslight* (MGM), *A Guy Named Joe* (MGM), *Story of Dr. Wassell* (Paramount), *Lifeboat* (20th-Fox).

Best performances by male stars: Bing Crosby in "Going My Way"; Spencer Tracy in "A Guy Named Joe"; Gary Cooper in "The Story of Dr. Wassell"; Fredric March in "The Adventures of Mark Twain"; Claude Rains in "Mr. Skeffington."

Best performances by feminine stars: Jennifer Jones in "The Song of Bernadette"; Ingrid Bergman in "Gaslight"; Greer Garson in "Madame Curie"; Bette Davis in "Mr. Skeffington"; Irene Dunne in "The White Cliffs of Dover."

Honors for Fitzgerald

Best performances by supporting actors: Barry Fitzgerald in "Going My Way"; Walter Pidgeon in "Madame Curie" tied with Van Johnson in "A Guy Named Joe"; Monty Woolley in "Since You Went Away"; Keenan Wynn in "See Here, Private Hargrove" tied with Walter Huston in "Dragon Seed."

Best performances by supporting actresses: Aline MacMahon in "Dragon Seed"; Ethel Barrymore in "None But the Lonely Heart"; Miriam Hopkins in "Old Acquaintance" tied with Diana Lynn in "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"; Angela Lansbury in "Gaslight."

Best performances by juvenile actors: Roddy McDowell in "Lassie Come Home"; Ted Donaldson in "Once Upon a Time"; Roddy McDowell in "The White Cliffs of Dover"; Lon McCallister in "Home in Indiana"; Donald O'Connor in "The Merry Monahans."

Best performances by juvenile actresses: Margaret O'Brien in "Lost Angel"; Joyce Reynolds in "Janie"; Shirley Temple in "Since

Peebles Sell Out To Western Group

(Continued from Page 1)

Noel Forest are interested in an important way.

The theatres involved are two in Dauphin, the Dauphin and the Gay, which the Peebles' have operated for 23 years; the Rex, Flin Flon; Roxy, Sherridon; and the Russell, Russell.

Seating capacity of each house is: Dauphin, 600; Gay, 260; Rex, 300; Roxy, 300; Russell, 189. They are all six-day houses.

The syndicate is supposed to have commenced operations with the purchase of the Northland, Dawson Creek, then erected a restaurant in that town. The next move was the acquisition of the Gem, Edmonton, which was followed by the purchase of a bus depot and restaurant in Calgary. Deal for the Peebles' holdings is said to involve several hundred thousand dollars.

The syndicate is reported to be setting up booking and operation offices in Winnipeg.

IA, Exhibs Join Rehab Program

(Continued from Page 1)

tion branch of the Province of Ontario, which licences projectionists, has waived apprenticeship and journeyman license fees.

Local 173, IATSE, which controls Toronto projectionists, has three journeymen and three apprentices in its ranks and every local in Canada is endeavoring to make room for veterans. The major problem of most of them is to leave room for members who are now in the armed forces. There are some 25 members of the Toronto Local in uniform.

Each Canadian local of the IATSE has home autonomy in the matter of assisting the program. In the case of non-union situations the exhibitor has endeavored to co-operate.

Under the program veterans receive \$20 per week for a year from the Rehabilitation Commission while studying for their "B" licenses.

You Went Away; Peggy Ann Garner in "Jane Eyre"; Margaret O'Brien in "Jane Eyre."

Top Directors

Best direction: Leo McCarey for "Going My Way"; Henry King for "The Song of Bernadette"; Alfred Hitchcock for "Lifeboat"; John Cromwell for "Since You Went Away"; George Cukor for "Gaslight."

Outstanding screen plays:

Ont. Labor Bodies Against Tax

(Continued from Page 1)

and their co-operation is being invited. The labor men contend that an amusement tax is, in effect, a raise in the cost of living.

The resolution was placed in the hands of a representative of the Ontario government at a conference between officials and trade union spokesmen to discuss labor matters generally.

May Be Ultra Vires

Return of the Ontario amusement tax — due, according to rumor, in April—may cause a tangle involving Ottawa and Queen's Park unless the right to apply it is granted federally.

The tax, if applied, will be the first imposed since the establishment of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and the price freezing regulations. As seen by some, it means raised admissions — and raised admissions mean a violation of the WPTB regulations.

Theatre men feel that no body, private or provincial, has a legal right to create legislation that will run counter to the spirit and letter of WPTB practices. Such legislations is ultra vires—beyond the power of the body which passes it.

There is every likelihood of the tax—if imposed—being passed on to the public. If so, it will cause great resentment. It was public opposition to this tax, known as a "nuisance tax," which caused Premier Mitchell Hepburn to cancel it in 1937.

Purpose of the tax was to bring money into the fund for educational subsidies.

Ontario and Saskatchewan are the only provinces without a provincial amusement tax. Several Saskatchewan municipalities have such a tax. They were all in effect before the WPTB came along.

It is not known whether the WPTB will make the exhibitor absorb the tax — or whether it has the power to do that. But no matter who will pay it if imposed, exhibitors are going to put up a battle against it.

"Going My Way," "Double Indemnity," "The Song of Bernadette," "Since You Went Away," "Lifeboat."

Outstanding photography: "Lady in the Dark," "An American Romance," *Lassie Come Home*, "The Song of Bernadette," "Jane Eyre."

"Finds" of the year: Jennifer Jones, June Allyson, Danny Kaye, Van Johnson, Barry Fitzgerald.

Garson, St. John, Odeon Partner

(Continued from Page 1)

under lease to Famous Players.

Building sites purchased by Garson for the partnership are located in Charlottetown, Sydney, Glace Bay, Amherst, Campbellton, New Waterford and St. John. Odeon previously purchased a property on Spring Garden Road, Halifax, where it is the intention to erect a modern theatre when restrictions are removed.

Those assets that come to Garson and Odeon from Winter and Sumner are the Capitol and Empress theatres in Moncton, and two additional sites acquired from Winter, one on St. George and the other on Lutz street.

This puts Odeon firmly in Maritime operation. The announcement was made jointly by Mr. Garson and Mr. Nathanson and follows the recent announcement that Famous Players had concluded a 16-theatre partnership with the F. G. Spencer circuit.

Coval Honored In Montreal

(Continued from Page 1)

Trinidad territory for Wolfe Cohen in the WB Foreign department, was succeeded by Grattan Kiely.

On the call of Charlie Chaplin, United Artists Montreal branch manager, who acted as toastmaster, Bill Lester of United Amusements expressed the sentiments of the gathering before presenting Coval with a watch for those on hand and others who couldn't be there.

At the head table were Charlie Chaplin, Alf Perry of Empire-Universal, Alec Adelman of Consolidated, Barney Rubin, Izzy Allen, Bill Lester, George Ganetacos and Harvey Harnick.

Those who served on the committee where Chaplin, Tommy Dowbiggen of Paramount, Hatton Taylor of RKO and Johnny Ganetacos of United Amusements. The entertainment of six acts was provided by Paul Cardinel of the Starland.

Congratulatory wires were received from many points in the United States and Canada.

Broadway, Toronto Is Sandler House

The Broadway, Toronto, handled for years by Ben Ulster, is operated by S. H. Sandler, who leased it from the younger Ulster in 1942. Ben Ulster, with whom it was incorrectly connected in a recent issue, still owns the building.

~~101 to 1~~ 1 to 101

THE ODDS WERE REVERSED BY THE FACTS! . . .

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